

Client: Utah
Source: The Sunday Times Travel Magazine (Main)
Date: 01 March 2011
Page: 76
Reach: 66391
Size: 959cm2
Value: 13042.4



GET ME THERE

GO INDEPENDENT

American Airlines (0844 499 7300, www.americanairlines.co.uk) flies direct from Heathrow to Los Angeles from £534 return; and from Heathrow to Palm Springs, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, via its US hubs, from £537; and from Manchester to Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, via Chicago, from £565. **BA** (0844 493 0787, www.ba.com) flies direct from Heathrow to Los Angeles from £394 return, San Francisco from £402, Seattle from £469 and – from summer 2011 – San Diego from £456. **Continental Airlines** (0845 607 6760, www.continental.com) flies from Heathrow to Los Angeles, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, via Newark or Houston, from £537 return; and from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester to Los Angeles, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, via its US hubs, from £537. **Delta** (0871 221 1222, www.delta.com) flies from Heathrow to Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, via its US hubs, from £395 return; and from Manchester to Los Angeles and San Francisco, via its US hubs, from £414. **US Airways** (0845

600 3300, www.usairways.co.uk) flies from Heathrow, via Philadelphia, or from Gatwick, via Charlotte, to 19 destinations on the west coast, including San Francisco from £384 return, Los Angeles from £374 and Seattle from £430. **Virgin Atlantic** (0844 874 7747, www.virgin-atlantic.com) flies direct from Heathrow to Los Angeles from £535 return, and to San Francisco from £545.

GET AROUND

BY CAR: Try **Alamo** (0871 384 1086, www.alamo.co.uk), **Avis** (0844 581 0147, www.avis.co.uk), **Budget** (0844 544 3407, www.budget.co.uk) and **Hertz** (0870 844 8844, www.hertz.co.uk). A week's car hire in California starts at around £110 for a two-door economy vehicle. Be aware that hiring a car in one state and returning it to another will incur an extra fee, usually between £190 and £320, depending on company, vehicle and distance.

BY TRAIN: **Amtrak** (00 1 800 872 7245, www.amtrak.com) runs the Coast Starlight route from Seattle to Los Angeles, via Portland, Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay area and Santa Barbara. The entire route takes 35 hours

and costs from £53pp one-way for a coach seat and from £137pp one-way for two people sharing a two-bed cabin. The route has numerous stops along the way, and segments can be booked individually. Amtrak also operates other routes in the region.

GO PACKAGED

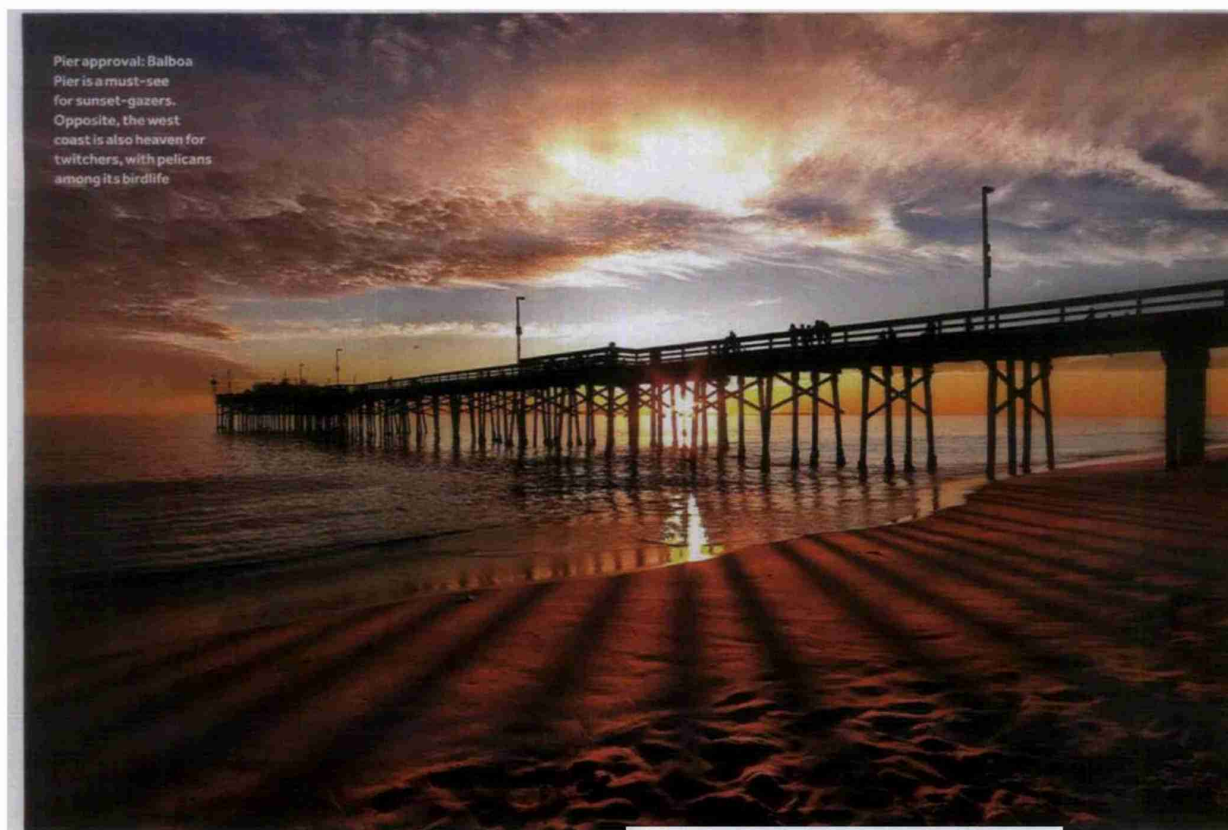
FAMILY: Grand American Adventures (0844 576 1406, www.grandamericanadventures.com) has an 11-night Western Discovery escorted group mini-van trip from £1,849pp, full board, including flights from Heathrow and accommodation – taking in San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. Or try **Funway Holidays** (0844 557 0770, www.funwayholidays.co.uk).

GREAT OUTDOORS: HF Holidays (0845 470 7558, www.hfholidays.co.uk) has a 13-night escorted California Guided Walking & Sightseeing tour from £3,350pp, half board, including flights from Heathrow – taking in San Francisco, Carmel, Yosemite and other California national and state parks. Or try **TrekAmerica** (0845 330 6095, www.trekamerica.co.uk).



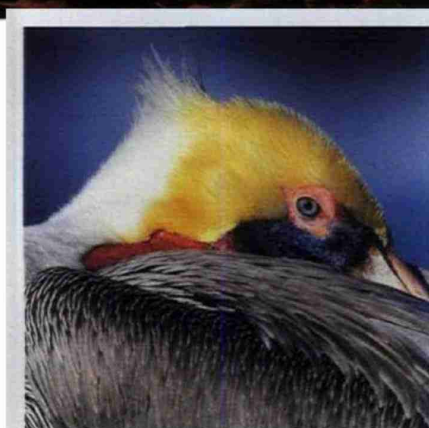
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UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED



Pier approval: Balboa
Pier is a must-see
for sunset-gazers.
Opposite, the west
coast is also heaven for
twitchers, with pelicans
among its birdlife

RESEARCH: JILL STARLEY-GRAINGER MAP: WWW.24POINT.NET PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY, GETTY
ALL FARES QUOTED ARE RETURNS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



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ROADTRIP: North American Highways

(01902 851138, www.nahighways.co.uk) has a 13-night self-guided California Southern Pacific Coast package from £1,785pp, including accommodation, mid-sized car hire and flights from Heathrow, taking in San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and Los Angeles. Or try **America As You Like It** (020 8742 8299, www.americaasyoulikeit.com).

ROADTRIP – MOTORBIKE: Bon Voyage

Travel and Tours (0800 316 3012, www.bonvoyage.co.uk) has a five-night self-guided Palm Springs, the Desert and Death Valley package from £925pp, B&B, including flights from Heathrow or Manchester, car hire and two days on a Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail bike to explore the desert.

ROADTRIP – MOTORHOME: Virgin Holidays

(0844 557 3859, www.virginholidays.co.uk) has seven nights for £1,129pp for two, plus a £65 drop-off fee, payable locally, including outbound flights from Heathrow to Los Angeles, return flights from San Francisco to Heathrow, and motorhome hire. Or try **Just America** (08448 806802, www.justamerica.co.uk) or **Key to America** (0113 398 3013, www.keytoamerica.com).

WINE TOUR: American Sky (0870 904 0920, www.americansky.co.uk) has an eight-night San Francisco and Wine Country Delights guided coach trip from £1,709pp, B&B, plus one lunch and three dinners – taking in San Francisco, Sonoma Valley and Napa Valley, including flights from Heathrow to San Francisco. Or try **California Vacations** (01582 469662, www.vacationsgroup.co.uk), or **North America Travel Service** (0845 122 8899, www.northamericatravelservice.co.uk).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Find out more at **Visit California** (www.visitcalifornia.co.uk), **Travel Oregon** (www.traveloregon.com) and **Washington State Tourism** (www.experiencewa.com).

